System and Method for Controlling Communications Network Traffic Through Phased Discard Strategy Selection

Abstract of the Disclosure

Congestion at an output from a node in a packet data communications network is controlled by maintaining a traffic profile based on the discardability/priority characteristics of recently received packets and by selecting at least an initial discard strategy which should be effective in ending congestion based on that profile. The profile is established by maintaining counts of the number of packets actually stored in an output buffer and of the number of packets which would have been stored if different discard strategies had been in force. The relationship of certain of the count values to a threshold determines which discard strategy is initially selected. Different, successively less intrusive discard strategies can be implemented until the congestion ends.